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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE

DORE & BREDWARDINE RURAL DISTRICT.

1938.

ISSUED JULY, 1939.

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Dore & Bredwardine Rural District Council

BYELAWS IN FORCE IN THE DISTRICT.

Byelaws are in operation in the District with respect to the following:—

Tents, Vans, Sheds and Similar Structures Used for Human Habitation.

Building.

For Securing the Decent Lodging and Accommodation of Persons engaged in Hop-picking or the Picking of Fruit and Vegetables.

Dore & Bredwardine Rural District Council

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL.

Chairman : T. L. Powell, Esq.

Vice-Chairman : Major E. F. Cockcroft.

G. C. Barker, Esq.
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J. Wathen, Esq.
D. Watkins, Esq.
P. Williams, Esq.

* County Councillor, Herefordshire County Council.

DORE AND BREDWARDINE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Staff of the Public Health Department.

Medical Officer of Health :

LEO FAY, M.D., D.P.H. (Resigned 31st March, 1938).

WILLIAM HOGG, M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.,
(Appointed 1st April, 1938).

Clerk to the Medical Officer of Health :

P. G. HANCOX, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

Public Health Department,
County Council Offices,
Alton Street, Ross-on-Wye.

Telephone—Ross 214.

Sanitary Inspector :

DAVID J. FRANCIS, C.R.S.I.,

Urishay House,
Peterchurch.

Telephone—Peterchurch 41.

DORE AND BREDWARDINE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

*Public Health Department,
County Council Offices,
Alton Street,
Ross-on-Wye.
February, 1939.*

*To the Chairman and Members of the Dore and Bredwardine Rural
District Council.*

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Lucas-Scudamore and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report on the Health Services of your District for the year ended 31st December, 1938.

It will be appreciated that I was not responsible for the direction of your health services throughout the entire year, as I did not take over my duties in succession to Dr. Fay until the 1st April, 1938.

The form of the Report has been somewhat altered, so as to conform more closely to Circular 1728 of the Ministry of Health.

I am pleased to report that progress with regard to housing has been greater than during 1937, and that there has been a small extension of the facilities for treatment of infectious disease. The health of the district has been good throughout the year.

I take this opportunity of expressing my thanks for their valuable assistance in the compilation of this Report to Mr. F. Craze, Clerk to the Council, and Miss Sayce, Financial Officer to the Council. My gratitude is also due to Mr. D. J. Francis, Sanitary Inspector, who has at all times afforded me the greatest assistance. I am indebted to these my colleagues for the co-operation and support they have given me during the difficult period of becoming conversant with the problems of my new appointment.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Lucas-Scudamore and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

WILLIAM HOGG,
Medical Officer of Health.

DORE AND BREDWARDINE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF
HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1938.**

**SECTION A.: STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF
THE AREA.**

Area (in acres) : 86,043.
Registrar-General's estimate of resident population, mid-1938:
7,215.
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1938) according to Rate
Books : 2,135.
Rateable Value : £21,021.
Sum represented by a penny rate : £92.

The Rural District of Dore and Bredwardine lies in the South-west of the County of Herefordshire, and is entirely agricultural in character.

Dairy farming and the cultivation of crops is carried on generally throughout the District, whilst sheep are grazed on the hills. Fruit and hops are grown to a small extent. There are areas of woodland of considerable size in parts of the District.

Unemployment.

There is some unemployment in the District, but this appears to be amongst those who are not agricultural workers, since the supply of agricultural labour seems to be barely adequate for the demand. There is, however, no direct evidence to show that unemployment has exercised any significant influence on the health or physique of either adults or children.

Extracts from Vital Statistics of the year:—

Live Births				
	Total.	Males.	Females.	
Legitimate	97	48	49	Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population: 14.7
Illegitimate	9	5	4	
Stillbirths	3	Nil	3	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births: 27.5.
Deaths	107	51	56	Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population: (crude) 14.8
Adjusted Death Rate (Factor: 0.77)				11.4.

Deaths from puerperal causes (Headings 29 and 30 of the Registrar-General's Short List) :—

	Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 total (live & still) births.
No. 29.—Puerperal Sepsis	Nil	Nil
No. 30.—Other puerperal causes	Nil	Nil
Total 	Nil	Nil

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age :—

All infants per 1,000 live births	56.6
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	51.5
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births,	111.0
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	18
„ „ Measles (all ages)	Nil
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages)	Nil
„ „ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	Nil

SECTION B.—GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Public Health Officers.

A list of the Public Health Officers of the Authority is given on Page 5 of this Report.

Laboratory Facilities.

A laboratory service for the District is provided by the Herefordshire County Council at the County and City Public Health Laboratory, County Offices, Hereford, to which medical practitioners may send specimens for examination without charge. In addition to the usual examinations, the Laboratory also undertakes the chemical and bacteriological examination of water on behalf of the Council. I regard the laboratory facilities as a most valuable part of the Public Health Service.

When necessary, swabs for virulence tests in connection with diphtheria outbreaks are sent to the Bacteriological Department of the University of Birmingham, as the County and City Laboratory, as yet, cannot undertake these tests.

The following is a summary of the number of specimens examined at the County and City Laboratory, Hereford, from the District during the year :—

Swabs for Diphtheria	63
Swabs for Streptococci	Nil
Sputa	11
Water :—	
Chemical	51
Bacteriological	62
TOTAL	187

This shews that the amount of work carried out in the Laboratory has increased considerably compared with the number of specimens submitted from the District during 1937, which was 71. This increase is due to a greater number of samples of water being sent for examination.

Ambulance Facilities.

When necessary, cases of infectious disease are removed to the Hereford Rural District Council's Isolation Hospital by the motor ambulance which is stationed at that Hospital.

The ambulance service provided by the British Red Cross Society at Hereford is available for the removal of non-infectious cases.

The Council do not own any ambulance.

In my opinion, the present ambulance facilities are adequate for the needs of the District.

Nursing in the Home.

The Herefordshire County Nursing Association have made arrangements whereby the services of a District Nurse are available in every parish.

There are five such District Nurses in the District, stationed at Longtown, Pontrilas, Orcop, Peterchurch and Madley. Each of these Nurses can act as a midwife or a maternity nurse, and in addition is available for general nursing in the homes of patients.

Treatment Centres and Clinics.

The Herefordshire County Council's Child Welfare Clinics are held at Peterchurch and Pontrilas once every month on Thursday afternoons. The average attendance per session during the year was 11 at Peterchurch, and 10.5 at Pontrilas, and whilst these figures are low it must be remembered that the District is sparsely populated.

Cases of Tuberculosis from the district attend the Dispensary at Hereford, and cases of Venereal Disease are referred to the County Clinic at Hereford for diagnosis and treatment.

Hospitals.

There are no hospitals in the District, the majority of non-infectious cases requiring treatment being dealt with by the Hospitals in Hereford.

When necessary, cases of infectious diseases are removed to Hereford Rural District Council's Isolation Hospital situated at Stretton Sugwas.

SECTION C.: SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water.

The water supplies of the District consist of a number of small piped supplies, shallow wells and springs, some of which are publicly and some privately owned.

The following table summarises the particulars regarding supplies available in each parish:—

PARISH.	WATER SUPPLIES AVAILABLE.
Abbeydore.	Two small private supplies, and a few private shallow wells.
Bacton.	A private piped supply, and a few private shallow wells.
Bredwardine.	A private piped supply, one public well, and some private springs.
Clifford.	A public piped supply, a private piped supply, and a few private shallow wells.
Craswall.	Supplied chiefly by private springs. There is a small piped supply for the school.
Cusop.	A private piped supply, and the Hay Urban District Council's piped supply.
Dorstone.	Two private piped supplies and a few private shallow wells.
Dulas.	A small private piped supply, and private springs.
Ewyas Harold.	Two private piped supplies, and a few private shallow wells.
Kenderchurch.	A private piped supply, and a number of private shallow wells.
Kentchurch.	Three private piped supplies. There is also another small private piped supply.
Kilpeck.	A small private piped supply, and private shallow wells.
Kingstone.	One public well and a number of private shallow wells.
Llancillo.	Private springs.
Llanveynoe.	Private springs and shallow wells, and a small private piped supply.
Longtown.	A public piped supply, and two public wells.
Madley.	A small piped supply owned by the Herefordshire County Council, and many private shallow wells.
Michaelchurch.	One private piped supply, and a number of private shallow wells.
Newton.	Two public wells and a number of private wells.
Orcop.	One public well and a number of private wells.
Peterchurch.	Six private piped supplies, and a number of private shallow wells.
Rowlestone.	One small private piped supply, private springs and shallow wells.
St. Devereux.	One private piped supply, and a number of private shallow wells.
St. Margarets.	Four public dip-wells, and a number of private shallow wells and springs.
Thruxton.	One private piped supply, and a few private shallow wells.
Treville.	One private piped supply, and some private shallow wells.
Tyberton.	One private piped supply, and some private shallow wells.
Vowchurch.	One private piped supply, and some private shallow wells.
Walterstone.	Private springs and shallow wells.
Wormbridge.	One private piped supply and a number of private shallow wells.

From the preceding summary it will be seen that shallow wells and springs form an important part of the water supplies of the District, and also that the greater proportion of these supplies are privately owned. There appear to be 24 separate piped supplies serving parts of the District.

During the year, 113 samples of water from various sources in the District were submitted to the County and City Laboratory, Hereford, for examination. Of these, 51 were for chemical and 62 for bacteriological examination, and 20 samples were found to be unfit for drinking purposes on chemical examination, and 41 samples unsatisfactory on bacteriological examination. This suggests that many of the sources of supply are not satisfactory, as is the usual experience when supplies are derived largely from shallow wells.

I take this opportunity of advising the Council that when a water supply is polluted, the practice, frequently adopted, of advising the consumers to boil the water before using for drinking purposes, does not solve the problem. At the most, it is to be regarded as a very temporary measure.

When there are so many separate sources of supply, it is not possible to submit samples of water for examination from each supply as frequently as is desirable, but on at least one occasion during the year samples were taken for chemical and bacteriological examination from practically all the piped supplies in the District. It is hoped that this practice will be maintained in the future.

During the summer, certain works were carried out in connection with the Council's piped supply at Longtown. Briefly, these consisted of an extension of the protected collecting area, and an improvement to the collecting channel. This work has greatly improved the protection of the supply, and has also slightly increased the yield of water. It was carried out under the supervision of your Sanitary Inspector. This supply is very satisfactory, and has been of very great benefit to the parish. The water is a spring water of bright character, and is adequate in quantity and of good quality. The number of consumers has been slightly increased during the year.

The Council also own a piped supply in the Parish of Clifford, which is entirely satisfactory. The water is obtained from springs, slightly peaty in character, and adequate both as regards quantity and quality.

The Chapel Well in the Parish of St. Margaret's, which is a public well, was found to be badly polluted. Certain works were carried out on the well at the expense of the Council, but in spite of this the water remained polluted, and the Council closed the well for drinking purposes. No supply of drinking water has been provided in place of this well.

A considerable amount of time has been devoted by the Council during the year to the water supply in the Parish of Dorstone. This parish has for a long time enjoyed the advantages of a piped supply derived from a spring situated in the parish, the pipes and apparatus having been provided by a former Rector. Towards the end of the summer, the present Rector, as the nominal owner of the Scheme, was served, by the owner of the spring, with a notice to remove all pipes and apparatus in connection with the supply. As a result of this threat to the water supply of the parish, the Council have under consideration a scheme for taking water from another spring and connecting this to the existing mains. I consider that this proposal is very sound, for the following reasons:—

- (1) More than sufficient water is available for the supply of the parish.
- (2) By chemical and bacteriological examination the water has been shewn to be of a high standard.
- (3) The suggested supply will be at a slightly greater pressure than the existing supply, so that all parts of the parish will be sure of a continuous supply.
- (4) There are no potential sources of pollution near the spring.

In the Parish of Eywas Harold, a few polluted wells are still in use, although two piped supplies are available. I consider that this state of affairs is very unsatisfactory, and that the Council should take steps to secure the closure of these private wells. A few new connections to the piped supplies have been made during the year.

The provision of a piped supply of pure and wholesome water is of the greatest benefit to a district, and is fundamental in the safeguarding of the public health. I should like to see piped supplies available in more parishes, and greater use made of existing piped supplies.

Drainage and Sewerage.

With the exception of a short length of sewer in the parish of Peterchurch, there are no sewers in the District.

In the case of all new buildings, the Council wisely insist upon the provision of septic tanks for the treatment of sewage.

Rivers and Streams.

Although the District contains several rivers and streams, I am satisfied that there is no gross pollution of these anywhere in the District.

In the Parish of Peterchurch, the washing of motor lorries and cars at the River Dore was discovered, and this was immediately prohibited by the Council. The Council also took adequate measures to prevent the fouling of this River by water-closets.

There is a tendency throughout the District for the contents of pail closets to be thrown into a river when of easy access, but this unhygienic practice is being discouraged by the close watch maintained by the Sanitary Inspector on such places where there is a possibility of its occurrence.

Closet Accommodation.

There are still many privies in existence in the district, which is sparsely populated and very inaccessible in parts. Whenever possible, however, these are replaced by pail closets, or sometimes by water closets.

During the year, 15 new water closets have been provided in the district, and 14 pail closets have been converted to water closets. 21 privies have been converted to pail closets, and 2 converted to chemical closets. 22 additional pail closets have been provided.

These conversions have been due to the action of the Sanitary Inspector, and I am very well satisfied with the progress made.

Public Cleansing.

There are no parishes in which the Council undertake the collection of house refuse. Some difficulty does arise from time to time in the larger villages through the indiscriminate dumping of refuse on any waste ground or in any stream which may be convenient. Notices prohibiting this practice have been erected in several parishes, but the Sanitary Inspector, nevertheless, has constantly to deal with nuisances of this description.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

The Sanitary Inspector for the District, Mr. D. J. Francis, has throughout the year discharged his duties in a most capable manner, and I take this opportunity of expressing my thanks for the valuable assistance which he has always given me. When the extent of the District and inaccessibility of many parts of it are considered, it will be realised that the Inspector can have achieved the work summarised in the Statement following only by much effort, especially in view of the fact that he has no clerical assistance whatever.

Tabular Statement of the work of the Sanitary Inspector, Mr. D. J. Francis, for the year, furnished in accordance with

Article 27 (Sub-section 18) of the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations, 1935:—

Inspections :—

Slaughterhouses and Shops	...	...	...	280
Bakehouses	...	...	...	16
Schools	...	...	...	20
Water Supplies	...	...	...	63
Nuisances	...	...	...	46
Factories	...	...	...	60
Fruit and Hop Pickers' Accommodation	...	...	...	52
Infectious Disease	...	...	...	44
Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	...	...	...	260
Other Housing Inspections	...	...	...	370
Cowsheds and Dairies	...	...	...	300
Petrol and Oil Stores	...	...	...	38
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	1,398
Total				2,947

Notices Issued :—

Informal	...	...	...	96
Statutory, re Housing	...	...	...	4
Statutory, under other Acts	...	...	...	7
Total				107

Summary of Defects Remedied :—

Drains relaid	...	...	...	}	51
New Drains Laid	...	...	...		
Drains Cleansed, Trapped or Ventilated	...	...	...		6
Defective Waste Pipes Rectified	...	...	...		5
Defective Sinks and Urinals Rectified	...	...	...		3
New Water Closets Provided	...	...	...		15
Water Closets Repaired, Ventilated or Provided with Cisterns	...	...	...		2
Privies Converted to Pail Closets	...	...	...		21
Privies Converted to Chemical Closets	...	...	...		2
Privies Converted to Water Closets	...	...	...		14
New Pail Closets Provided	...	...	...		22
Pail Closets Repaired	...	...	...		8
Privies and Ashpits Cleansed	...	...	...		24
Offensive Refuse Accumulations Removed	...	...	...		5
Slaughterhouses Cleansed and Repaired	...	...	...		2
New Wells Sunk	...	...	...		4
Wells Cleansed and Repaired	...	...	...		11
Rooms Disinfected re Infectious Disease	...	...	...		44
Schools Disinfected	...	...	...		2
Public Vehicles Disinfected	...	...	...		3
Dwellinghouses Cleansed	...	...	...		2
Total					246

Common Lodging Houses.

There are no common lodging houses in the District.

Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

There are 35 factories with mechanical power in the District. During the year, 60 inspections were made, and one defective sanitary convenience was found. This was remedied as a result of the informal action taken by the Sanitary Inspector.

The following Tables give particulars of the work carried out in the District during the year in connection with the administration of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, and the Factories Act, 1937 (which superseded the Act of 1901 on 1st July, 1938).

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health.

(Including Inspections made by the Sanitary Inspector).

Premises. (1)	Number of		
	Inspections (2)	Written Notices (3)	Occupiers Prosecuted (4)
Factories with mechanical power	35	—	—
Factories without mechanical power	—	—	—
Other Premises under the Act (including works of building and engineering construction but not including outworkers' premises)	25	1	—
TOTALS	60	1	Nil

2. Defects Found.

Particulars (1)	Number of Defects.			Number of defects in respect of which Prosecutions were instituted. (5)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector (4)	
Want of Cleanliness (S.1) ...	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2) ...	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) ...	—	—	—	—
Ineffective Drainage of floors (S.6) ...	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7) {	insufficient	—	—	—
	unsuitable or defective	1	—	—
	not separate for sexes	—	—	—
Other offences ... (not including offences relating to Home Work or offences under the Sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers) Order, 1921, and re-enacted in the Third Schedule to the Factories Act, 1937.)	—	—	—	—
TOTALS ...	1	1	Nil	Nil

Outwork in Unwholesome Premises.

(Section 108 of Act of 1901 ; Nil
Section III. of Act of 1937).

Fruit and Hop-Pickers' Quarters.

There is only one farm in the District where quarters are required for fruit and hop-pickers. This, however, is a large farm, and a considerable number of pickers are engaged throughout the fruit-picking season, although the number remaining for hop-picking is much smaller.

The quarters are very satisfactory, but the habits of the pickers themselves require constant supervision, and frequent visits are made by the Sanitary Inspector. During the last season, 52 such visits of inspection were made, and six informal notices sent, these being complied with promptly in each case.

Shops.

There are few shops in the District, but the Sanitary Inspector makes periodical inspections of food-shops.

No action was necessary during the year under the Shops Act, 1934, or the Public Health Act, 1936.

Camping Sites.

Although the District is entirely rural in character and embraces some charming valleys and fine scenery, it does not appear to attract campers.

So far as the knowledge of this Department goes, the following particulars indicate the extent of this problem during the year:—

- | | | |
|---|--------|-----|
| (1) Number of sites in the area which were used for camping purposes during 1938 | | Nil |
| (2) Number of camping sites in respect of which licences have been issued by the Local Authority under Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936 | ... | Nil |
| (3) Estimated maximum number of campers resident in the area at one time during the summer season, 1938 | | Nil |

There are two recognised camping sites in the District, but these have not been occupied as such at any time during the year.

Smoke Abatement.

This problem does not arise within the District.

Swimming Baths and Pools.

There are no (a) public (b) privately owned swimming baths or pools open to the public, in the District.

Eradication of Bed Bugs.

This problem seldom appears to arise in the District, and no privately owned or Council houses were found to be infested with bed bugs during the year.

In any case of infestation which may arise, I have advised the Sanitary Inspector to use the preparation known as "Zaldecide," as I consider that the use of hydrogen cyanide is dangerous unless carried out by a staff who, as a result of frequent use of this substance, have acquired sufficient skill to do so with safety.

No special inspection of tenants' belongings is made before moving into houses provided by the Council, and this is hardly considered to be necessary since the Council's houses are very few in number, and the tenants invariably known to the Sanitary Inspector.

Schools.

The Schools in the District can only be regarded as fairly satisfactory, since all are small and the amenities are often far below the present-day standards of school construction.

Pail closets are still being used where water closets could be installed, playgrounds are in many cases unpaved and cloak-room accommodation inadequate. These are but some of the defects which I should like to see abolished.

During the year, complaints were received with respect to the pollution of the well at Walterstone Council School. On inspection, this was confirmed, and in spite of much work being carried out it has not been sufficiently improved at the time of writing.

A complaint was also received regarding an inadequate water supply at Orcop Council School, and the necessary work is being carried out by the Local Education Authority.

There were seventeen school closures on account of the prevalence of infectious disease and other disorders, a tabular statement of which is given below:—

School Closures.

School.	Period.	Cause.
Madley C. of E. ...	5- 1-38—21- 1-38 ...	Mumps.
Walterstone C. ...	19- 1-38— 1- 2-38 ...	Influenza.
Kentchurch C. of E. ...	24- 1-38—28- 1-38 ...	Coughs and Colds.
Dorstone ...	24- 1-38—28- 1-38 ...	Coughs and Colds.
Clifford C. ...	28- 1-38— 4- 2-38 ...	Coughs and Colds.
Kilpeck ...	31- 1-38—18- 2-38 ...	Coughs and Colds.
Kentchurch C. of E. ...	1- 2-38—11- 2-38 ...	Mumps.
Kentchurch C. of E. ...	17- 2-38— 4- 3-38 ...	Mumps.
Madley C. of E. ...	16- 2-38— 4- 3-38 ...	Mumps.
Bredwardine Endowed ...	2- 3-38—11- 3-38 ...	Influenza.
Wormbridge C. of E. ...	14- 3-38— 1- 4-38 ...	Measles & Mumps.
Newton C. ...	25- 5-38— 3- 6-38 ...	Measles.
Kingston & Thruxton ...	31- 5-38—24- 6-38 ...	Measles.
Wormbridge C. of E. ...	2- 6-38—17- 6-38 ...	Scarlet Fever.
Clifford C. ...	25- 7-38—29- 7-38 ...	German Measles.
Kentchurch C. of E. ...	28-11-38— 2-12-38 ...	Coughs and Colds.
Madley C. ...	5-12-38—22-12-38 ...	Coughs and Colds.

Outbreaks of Mumps and Measles appear to be the chief causes of these closures, and both of these diseases are not easy to control.

Disinfection was carried out at two schools in order to allay the alarm of staff and parents.

SECTION D.—HOUSING.

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year.

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts	...	...	...	...	...	588
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	...					588
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	...	...	...	...	...	220
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	...					260
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	...	12
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation						46

2. Remedy of Defects during the year without Service of Formal Notices.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	...	...	...	...	...	58
---	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	----

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year.

(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:—						
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	...	...				4
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:—						
(a) By owners	...	...	...	...		4
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners						Nil
(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:—						
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served required defects to be remedied						3
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:—						
(a) By owners	...	...	...	...		3
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners						Nil
(c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:—						
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	...	...	...			3

(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	...	...	...	3
(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:—				
(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	...	...	...	Nil
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	...	...	...	Nil

4. Housing Act, 1936, Part IV.—Overcrowding.

(a) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	...	...	...	...	4
(ii) Number of families dwelling therein	...				4
(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein	...				33
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	...	...	...	...	2
(c) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	...	...	...	...	2
(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases					17
(d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding:—					

There were no cases of overcrowding recurring after abatement had been secured by the Local Authority.

Whilst progress in the improvement of housing conditions in the District has been slow, it has nevertheless been in the right direction. I am pleased to report that the Council have made use of all their powers for dealing with unfit houses, and hope that this policy will be pursued further.

During 1938, fifteen new houses were erected in the District, eight of these being erected by the Council as part of the housing programme. Four of the latter were erected in the Parish of Ewyas Harold, and two in each of the Parishes of Kenderchurch and Madley.

Eight Official-Representations were submitted during the year by the Medical Officer of Health with respect to unfit dwellings, and in every case the Council have taken steps in order to deal with these dwellings.

Grants have been made by the Council under the Housing (Rural Workers) Acts, to enable owners to reconstruct dwelling-houses for occupation by rural workers. All applications for such grants are submitted to the Council's Architect, and grants are

only made by the Council after careful consideration of that Officer's report. This is a useful precaution, as it enables the Council to be satisfied that the proposed work is adequate, and that it is properly carried out. During the year, grants were made for the reconditioning of 11 houses, and in addition 9 dwelling-houses were reconstructed by owners without the aid of grants.

There appears to be little overcrowding in the area. Only four dwellings were overcrowded at the beginning of the year, and two further cases were discovered in the course of the year. As the result of two cases being relieved, the number remaining on 31st December was four.

SECTION E.: INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk Supply.

There are 367 premises in the District registered with the Local Authority under the Milk and Dairies Order, 1926.

This is a slight decrease on the number registered during 1937, and is due to a number of dairy farms reverting to stock breeding. By far the greater portion of the milk produced is sold wholesale and collected by road vehicles, the retail sale of milk in the District being very small. A few farms make butter, which is sold in the local markets.

There are 9 producers of Accredited milk and two producers of Tuberculin-Tested milk in the district. The Sanitary Inspector acts as Sampling Officer on behalf of the Herefordshire County Council for the purposes of the Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936, and 68 samples of milk were submitted during the year for examination for bacterial content and the presence of tubercle bacilli. In addition, 6 sedimentation tests were carried out by the Inspector.

The number of inspections of registered premises made during 1938 was 276. As a result of these inspections, 35 cow-sheds were found not to be properly cleansed, and this was remedied by the informal action of the Sanitary Inspector. Speaking generally, limewashing is carried out in a fairly satisfactory manner.

Meat and Other Foods.

There are 7 slaughterhouses in the district, and these are visited by the Sanitary Inspector at approximately weekly intervals, 280 such visits being made during the year.

In this District, it is not possible for any ante-mortem inspection of animals to be carried out, and it is only with difficulty that the Sanitary Inspector can manage to inspect most of the carcasses. The great difficulty with slaughterhouses in a Rural District is the fact that it is impossible for the Local Authority's Officer to exercise sufficient supervision, although this is to a certain extent overcome in this District by the co-operation which has been secured between the Butchers and Sanitary Inspector.

A successful prosecution of a butcher from another district under Section 8 of the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924, was undertaken during the year by the Local Authority.

I am satisfied that all the local butchers comply with the Regulations. There is a tendency, however, for persons killing bacon pigs to sell the offal and small parts of the carcasses to their neighbours, and in such cases inspections cannot be made.

Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

	Cattle, excluding Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.
Number killed (if known) ...	220	10	30	800	190
Number inspected ...	200	10	30	640	180
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS.					
Whole carcasses condemned ...	—	1	—	2	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	8	—	1	2	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuber- culosis ...	4%	10%	3.33%	0.56%	—
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY.					
Whole carcasses condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	20	5	3	—	27
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis ...	10%	50%	10%	—	15%

The Sanitary Inspector also makes inspections of food shops from time to time. During the year, 4cwt. 1qr. 4lbs. of meat was surrendered for destruction in addition to 7lbs. of canned goods and 11lbs. of cooked food.

Adulteration, Etc.

The Food and Drugs (Adulteration) Act, 1928, is administered by the Police on behalf of the Herefordshire County Council.

Chemical and Bacteriological Examination of Food.

The County and City Public Health Laboratory, Hereford, is prepared to undertake a certain amount of bacteriological examination of food, e.g., milk for tubercle bacilli, and food in suspected cases of food poisoning.

Nutrition.

No action has been taken by the Council during the year to disseminate knowledge on the subject of nutrition to the inhabitants of the District. Advice on nutrition is, however, given to those attending the Children Welfare Clinics.

Shell-Fish (Molluscan).

There are no shell-fish beds or layings within the District, and no action was necessary under the Public Health (Shell-Fish) Regulations, 1934, or the Public Health (Cleansing of Shell-Fish) Act, 1932.

Shell-fish, and fish generally, do not play much part in the diets of the residents, and there are no purveyors of shell-fish in the District, the small supplies consumed being purchased from the nearby towns of Hereford, Abergavenny and Hay.

SECTION F.: PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

There was little infectious disease notified during the year. Altogether 28 notifications were received, viz., 11 Scarlet Fever, 4 Diphtheria, 4 Ophthalmia Neonatorum, 8 Pneumonia, and 1 Erysipelas.

There was unfortunately one death due to Diphtheria. This was an adult who had been visiting relatives in various parts of the country. I am satisfied that he developed the disease in another district, but that this was diagnosed and notified only when he came into this District. Although removal to hospital was promptly carried out, the patient succumbed on the following day.

When necessary, cases of notifiable infectious disease are removed to the Isolation Hospital of the Hereford Rural District Council, situated at Stretton Sugwas, by the motor ambulance stationed at the Hospital. The Council retain two beds in this Hospital, and whilst this number appears to be sufficient for the needs of the District, the existing agreement makes provision for the treatment of cases of Smallpox, Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria only. I consider this agreement to be inadequate, since it is of far more importance to provide hospital treatment for a case of Typhoid Fever or a severe case of Erysipelas than for the prevailing type of Scarlet Fever. Indeed, it has always been my policy to deal with Scarlet Fever by home isolation whenever possible. In my opinion, the agreement between the Council and that of the Hereford Rural District should use the term "notifiable infectious disease" which would render it somewhat wider and more useful than in its existing form.

The position regarding the treatment of Smallpox cannot be regarded as being entirely satisfactory, for in the event of a case of Smallpox being admitted to Hospital all other cases would be immediately returned to their homes and only Smallpox

cases afterwards admitted to the Hospital. I consider that accommodation for the treatment of cases of Smallpox should be additional to that for other infectious diseases, and not supplementary to it.

I am pleased to report that the Council have resolved that cases of Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis may be admitted to the Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital, Oswestry, and have agreed to meet the cost of removal and treatment at this Hospital for a period of six weeks, i.e., for the period during which the disease is usually regarded as being infectious. It is hoped that any further treatment such cases may require will be provided under the Orthopaedic Scheme of the Herefordshire County Council.

The Council supply Diphtheria Anti-toxin free of charge to registered medical practitioners for use in connection with patients residing in the District, and during the year 8,000 units of this were supplied.

Although the Council affords immunisation against Diphtheria without charge to those who so desire it, no applications were received during the year. The lack of demand for this service is, I think, largely due to the fact that Diphtheria is an almost unknown disease in this District.

Notifiable Diseases during the Year 1938.

Disease.			Total Cases Notified.	Cases admittd to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Smallpox	...	...	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	...	...	11	5	—
Diphtheria	...	...	4	4	1
Enteric Fever	...	...	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	—	—	—
Pneumonia	...	...	8	—	5
Erysipelas	...	...	1	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum			4	—	—

Analysis of the Total Notified Cases According to age.

Disease	AGE GROUPS.												To- tals.
	Un- der 1	1—	2—	3—	4—	5—	10—	15—	20—	35—	45—	65 and over	
Scarlet Fever	—	1	—	—	—	2	5	1	—	1	1	—	11
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	2	—	—	—	4
Pneumonia	—	—	—	—	—	1	3	—	—	3	1	—	8
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
TOTALS	4	1	—	—	—	4	9	2	2	4	2	—	28

Prevention of Blindness.

The Council have not utilised any powers under Section 176 of the Public Health Act, 1936, but provision for the treatment of Ophthalmia Neonatorum arising in the district is made by the Herefordshire County Council as part of the Maternity and Child Welfare Scheme.

Tuberculosis.

At the end of 1937 there was a total of 13 cases of Tuberculosis on the Register: of these, 7 were pulmonary and 6 non-pulmonary.

During the year, 6 notifications were received, 5 being for pulmonary, and 1 for non-pulmonary disease, and 4 cases were removed for various reasons, leaving a total of 15 cases (9 pulmonary, 6 non-pulmonary) on the Register at 31st December, 1938.

New Cases and Mortality During 1938.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0- ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1- ...	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
5- ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
15- ...	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
25- ...	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
35- ...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
45- ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55- ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 & upwards	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	2	3	—	1	—	1	—	1

Of the two deaths due to Tuberculosis during the year, one case was not notified before death. This was a case of Tubercular Meningitis. Generally speaking, however, notification is carried out promptly by the medical practitioners in the District, and no action was necessary during the year under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, or Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

Causes of Death.

				Males.	Females.	Total.
Diphtheria	...	...	...	1	—	1
Influenza	...	...	...	—	1	1
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	...	...	...	—	1	1
Non-Respiratory Tuberculosis	...	...	...	—	1	1
General Paralysis of Insane, Tables, etc.	...	...	...	1	—	1
Cancer	...	...	...	7	11	18
Diabetes	...	...	...	1	—	1
Cerebral Hæmorrhage	...	...	...	2	—	2
Heart Disease	...	...	...	12	18	30
Other Circulatory Diseases	...	...	...	2	5	7
Bronchitis	...	...	...	1	2	3
Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	...	4	1	5
Other Respiratory Diseases	...	...	...	—	1	1
Peptic Ulcer	...	...	...	—	1	1
Appendicitis	...	...	...	2	—	2
Other Digestive Diseases	...	...	...	1	—	1
Acute and Chronic Nephritis	...	...	...	4	—	4
Congenital Debility, Premature Birth, etc.	...	...	...	1	3	4
Senility	...	...	...	1	—	1
Suicide	...	...	...	1	—	1
Other Violence	...	...	...	2	4	6
Other Defined Diseases	...	...	...	8	7	15
				—	—	—
All Causes	...	...	...	51	56	107

Health Education.

No special action was taken by the Council during the year for the promotion of interest in the prevention of ill-health.

Pamphlets provided by the Herefordshire County Council were, however, distributed from this Department and from the Clinics held in the district.

